



**CITY OF LONG LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Adams.

Present: Chair: Roger Adams; Commissioners: Steve Keating, Virginia See, John Hughes, and Anita Secord; City Council Member/Liaison: Mike Feldmann

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Planning Consultant: Hannah Rybak; City Engineer: Alex Mollenkamp

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Keating moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner See seconded. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner See moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Keating seconded. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Joe Kochenderfer, 1274 Tealwood Place – Mr. Kochenderfer asked for an update of what is happening with the fire damaged house on Underhill Circle.

Chair Adams stated that his understanding was that there are plans in place to demolish the house and prepare the site for reconstruction, but there have been delays. He noted that he knows that their deadline for completion of demolition had been extended to September 30 because the contractor they had originally lined up left to take another job.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Public Hearing: Planning Case #2021-03/Request for Approval of a Variance for an Increase in Impervious Surface Coverage and a Conditional Use Permit Amendment to Increase Outdoor Restaurant Seating at Birch's on the Lake, Located at 1310 Wayzata Boulevard W. (Applicant: Brennan Greene/Hunt Greene LLC)

Planning Consultant Rybak recalled that the Planning Commission and City Council had considered this request in July 2021 and after much discussion, the applicant decided to modify the plans to better conform to Zoning Ordinance requirements and address the input of neighboring property owners. She explained that the applicant had submitted a revised request that moved the patio to comply with setback requirements and adjusted the walkway and steps to the lake a bit. The applicant has also submitted detailed plans regarding the rain garden. She gave a brief overview of the revised request.

City Engineer Mollenkamp provided an overview of the engineering comments related to the revised request.

Rybak reviewed the revised application against the City's variance and CUP criteria. She noted that the updated plan was sent to the MnDNR and they responded that they were declining to provide any comments on the updated application. The City did not receive any additional written comments following the most recent public hearing notice. Staff is recommending approval subject to the conditions as noted in the staff report.

Chair Adams opened the public hearing at 6:48 pm.

Tammis McMillian, 1274 Tealwood Place, stated that some of the comments in the staff report referenced the 2015 plan and asked for clarification of those statements.

Mollenkamp responded that she had spoken with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and they had informed her that the 2015 plan was constructed as approved at the time. She stated that right now, her comment was in regard to portions of that plan that pertain to this specific area that she did not see on the site survey, so she wanted to make sure that they are still in place, as they were constructed in 2015. She explained that it is more a case of verifying what happened between 2015 and now.

Joe Kochenderfer, 1274 Tealwood Place, inquired about the location of the catch basin and whether it would be where the curb cuts are located.

Mollenkamp clarified what is meant by "catch basin", discussed where it should be located, and noted that they just need to verify its location.

Mr. Kochenderfer questioned how the City would guarantee that all the conditions of approval as set forth are actually met.

Mollenkamp replied that the engineering conditions of approval would be under her supervision and noted that the 2015 items just need to be verified as an existing condition.

Mr. Kochenderfer asked if the public would be able to see a final draft of the improvements that address the engineering comments.

Mollenkamp explained that a final draft, as approved by staff, would be on record at City Hall, but there would not be a comment period.

Mr. Kochenderfer commented that he has a concerns about the water that has been running off the driveway for many years down the side hill with the Tealwood adjacent properties

and would like to know how much pollution has been released into the ground or affected the trees. He stated that nobody knows this because it has been five or six years. He asked if the City would do anything such as conduct an environmental survey or study on this situation.

Chair Adams noted that doing so may be a great idea, but it is not under the purview of the Planning Commission.

There being no additional public comment, Chair Adams closed the public hearing at 6:57 pm.

Commissioner Keating added that if he puts on his cap for the Long Lake Rowing Crew's perspective, what is being proposed is an improvement as long as they have a working relationship with Birch's.

Commissioner Hughes moved to recommend the City Council adopt a resolution approving a variance for an increase in impervious surface coverage and a conditional use permit amendment for expanded outdoor seating at 1310 Wayzata Boulevard W, subject to the conditions as stated in the staff report. Commissioner Secord seconded. Ayes: all.

B. Public Hearing: Ordinance Amending the City Code of Ordinances to Allow Electronic Changeable Copy Signs as a Permitted Sign Type

Rybak explained that in June 2016, at the Planning Commission's recommendation, the City Council adopted an ordinance to revise the City's sign regulations including the addition of new provisions to allow for electronic changeable copy signage. At that time, electronic changeable copy signs were relatively new. In recent years, cities have moved away from requiring CUPs for this type of signage, recognizing these signs have become an industry standard and actually have the potential to reduce the use of temporary signage in freestanding and banner forms. She presented the draft ordinance, noting it would simply delete the CUP requirement, thereby allowing these signs as a permitted sign type subject to the same design and functionality conditions currently reflected in City Code.

Chair Adams opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

There being no additional public comment, Chair Adams closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

Commissioner Secord moved to recommend the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 2021-01 amending Chapter 8, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article V. Sign Regulations, Division 3. Restrictions, Sec. 8-234, Subdivision (b)(1)(i.) of the City of Long Lake Code of Ordinances to allow electronic changeable copy signs as a permitted sign type. Commissioner Keating seconded. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Council Liaison Report

Council member Feldmann highlighted some of the Council activities that have happened since the Commission last met.

B. Commission Member Business

Commissioner Hughes asked how the City could arrange for a flashing speed limit sign for placement on Orchard Road. He shared examples of people exceeding the speed limit, including an MTC bus.

Commissioner Secord added that the speed of traffic is also a problem on Brown Road.

City Administrator Weske indicated that he would speak to the Police Department and ask them to start tagging speed violations or have some sort of increased Police presence in the area. He stated that the Council has plans to discuss and include some pedestrian safety items in their 2022 budget and asked that if there are other areas where the Commission has concerns, that they pass them along to him so they can be included in the plans.

C. Staff Business

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Adams adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator